

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *CLUJ SALAJ REGIONAL WATER*
Project Number: *2019-0724*
Country: *ROMANIA*
Project Description: Financing Cluj/Salaj regional operator's contribution to the investment programme which is included in the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure during the 2014-2020 programming period.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Promoter of the Project is COMPANIA DE APA SOMES SA, Cluj (CASSA), a Regional Operation Company (ROC) in Cluj and Salaj Counties, located in the northwest of Romania. The Project aims to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in CASSA's area of service through: (i) the extension and modernisation of centralised water supply service in localities with more than 50 inhabitants in line with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC); (ii) collection and treatment of wastewater in agglomerations with more than 2,000 PE (population equivalent) as per the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) requirements and (iii) rehabilitate water supply and sewage networks in order to reduce leakage and infiltration.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure

The Project is part of the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure 2014-2020 (Programul Operational Infrastructura Mare, POIM) which was subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. Furthermore, the Project complies with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and it is consistent with the National River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2016-2021 (*Planul National de Management aferent*

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 20,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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portunii din Bazinul Hidrografic International al fluviului Dunarea 2016-2021) which is the Romanian National part of the full Danube RBMP.

The National RBMP 2016-2021 was subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). By the final Screening Decision with ref. N 13657 of 1 June 2016, the competent SEA Authority, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, concluded that the RBMP 2016-2021 is not likely to have significant impact on the environment.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure

The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU, is fully transposed in Romania according to the Law 292/2018.

The Project components were screened by the Competent Authority, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). As a result, a full Environmental Impact Assessment was required for the whole Project, which was completed in 2016. The Environmental Permit (Acord de Mediu) was published on the website of NEPA on 15 December 2016.

Technical modifications occurred during project preparation. However, the NEPA issued a Revised Screening Decision on 26 April 2018, which clarifies that the modifications will not have significant impact on the environment, and therefore the Project with the new modifications will not require a new full EIA.

Environmental impacts

The project components will contribute to the protection of surface and ground water bodies. They will also ensure a more efficient and sustainable use of water resources due to a reduction of water losses.

The project will have significant positive environmental impact on surface waters, by providing appropriate treatment to European Standards of wastewater collected from locations with population between 2,000 to 10,000 PE before its discharge into surface water bodies. Hence, the Project will contribute significantly to bridge the country's gap to compliance with EU environmental legislation, in particular the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

Negative impacts are assessed as local, insignificant, temporary and reversible. It is considered that they are likely to occur only during the construction phase. The negative impacts on soil and landscape are also only during the period of construction, as the environment will be reinstated afterwards to its previous state after the completion of the works. Temporary negative impacts on humans and biodiversity relate to noise, vibrations and dust emissions. In view of preventing and mitigating any impacts associated with the construction phase, the Environmental Permit imposed a number of mitigation measures that will be included and followed by the Contractors in the Environmental Management Plans.

Appropriate Assessment (AA)

In compliance with the Romanian national legislation (Law 292/2018), the Appropriate Assessment (AA) procedure is integrated in the EIA. According to the AA, the negative impact on the Natura 2000 sites was assessed to be insignificant, and the authorities responsible for the management of these sites in the surroundings of the Project gave favourable opinions:

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- Asociația Ecochoice – Cluj -Napoca which gave a favourable opinion with ref. No. 130 of 08 August 2015 for the following NATURA 2000 sites: ROSPA0104 – Bazinul Fizesului and ROSCI0099 Lacul Stiucilor-Sic-Puini-Bontida;
- Natura Transilvaniei which gave a favourable opinion with ref. No.138 of 10 December 2015 for the following NATURA 2000 site: ROSCI0074 -Fagetul Clujului-Valea Morii;
- Societatea Lepidopterologica Romana, Cluj-Napoca which gave a favourable opinion with ref. No. 26/C of 24 November 2015 for the following NATURA 2000 site: ROSCI0295 – Dealurile Clujului Est.

Climate Change

The Project has a significant contribution to Climate Change adaptation since it will include the construction of new water supply lines. They will increase the resilience of the water supply system and ensure water security of the service area that is expected to be affected by more frequent and prolonged periods of drought in the future. In addition, the Project has a significant contribution to Climate Action Mitigation, which stems from the extension of the sewage network and construction of centralized wastewater treatment plants with a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the wastewater treatment.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated annual emissions of project in a standard year of operation are:

- Absolute emissions: 27kTCO₂e/year
- relative emissions: -19kTCO₂e/year

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Social Assessment

The project will generally benefit public health, by increasing or improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, or by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies. Public health will also be improved thanks to the safe disposal of sludge from wastewater treatment plants, in a a thermal drying with energy recovery. The project will increase the employment opportunities during the construction.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

In the course of the project preparation, all the screening decisions were made public as required by applicable Environmental Impact Assessment legislation in Romania.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will not produce any Transboundary impact.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will further contribute to implementation of the requirements of the EU environmental legislation in the water sector, in particular with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

All project components covered by the programme will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA (2014/52/EC) amending the EIA Directive (2011/92/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC). In case of a change in scope of the Project, the promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and the necessary appropriate assessment, if required, have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is finalised, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Considered the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.